

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 15, 2011
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Joe Vitale, Missy Kueht-Becker, Mary Anderson, Don Harris, Raquel Mehring, Diane Ripple, Shirley Wehmeier, Jim Pearson, Sara, Carpenter, Lisa McLean, Barb Holtz, Amy Baumann, Katie Miller, Emma Jacque (visitor from LSS), Bill Bolden (visitor from St. Charles), Nichole Hunkins, Sarah Badeau, Pam Groh

STAFF PRESENT: Jesús Mireles, Kathy Mullooly, Pete Slesar, Emily Krause (for Eve Altizer), Sarah Vargas, Antwayne Robertson

Diane Ripple called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Don Harris motioned to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Raquel Mehring and approved.

BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Joe Vitale reported there were big personnel savings due to budget repair bill. He further noted that this is a one-year cost savings.

Joe stated there is a meeting scheduled regarding the Juvenile Center next Friday, and another in October. There was brief discussion afterwards.

Joe has attempted to seek out the new police liaison officer to extend an invitation to CAFSAC. Bill Boldon advised that the liaison is Officer Servando Benitez.

There was discussion on when the budget is presented to the HHS Board and HHS Committee when it is approved by the county board and the County Executive.

JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Diane recently met with other advisory committee chairs where they discussed the current funding environment, increasing needs and complexities, and new collaborations. It was generally very beneficial to share what other areas are facing.

Missy said the one thing that stuck out for her at this meeting was current drug use among youth. Heroin is back; it's a cheap drug. Mary Anderson reported they have been seeing heroin use in pregnant women at Public Health.

Jesús clarified that how they came to have this meeting was after a review of the CAFSAC bylaws. All committees are advisory to the County Executive. We all make recommendations and this was an opportunity to meet with all the committee chairs to identify the areas we have in common. Missy reported that they did talk about the CAFSAC collaboration spreadsheet, which shows how we work together without duplication. She suggested forming a pilot group to work on developing a relationship based system between agencies and how to identify a lead for families involved with multiple agencies. Missy passed around a sign up sheet for those

interested in participating in the group. There was discussion about opening this up to other committees outside of CAFSAC. Jesús added the challenge is getting people to volunteer or to make time for this in addition to their regular employment duties. The first meeting hopefully can be in two or three weeks. Missy has some examples of experiences throughout the state that she will share. There was discussion on a reasonable trigger to identify agencies that commonly work together, how agencies can communicate with one another regarding a case, and what obligations apply to the family.

Joe stated that the County Executive has had a positive ear towards their needs. CAFSAC has done a good job on collaborating. He doesn't see consolidation happening, but suggests CAFSAC at least look into it. It would be good to show we've studied it. Common sense is to collaborate as we have been.

PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES

Kathy Mullooly introduced four agencies to report on using the Promoting Safe and Stable Families grant; Emma Jacque, Bill Boldon, Shirley Wehmeier, and Raquel Mehring.

Bill Boldon has been with St. Charles for 25 years, in the Waukesha Mentor Program. The program works with youth that have severe mental health issues. The goals are to improve social skills, learn physical activities, and provide respite for parents. There are currently seven clients in the program. The two programs offered are Family Preservation and Family Reunification. Their annual survey responses are that clients are mostly satisfied. He shared a handout explaining the goals of the two programs. The question was asked if a case must be opened with the county, and Bill answered yes.

Shirley Wehmeier handed out a brochure for Healthy Families of Waukesha County and a grid showing their various programs. She reported having received a few phone calls from families of babies they started with in 1993 who have graduated high school this year, one with high honors, which shows positive outcomes. They started with thirteen programs, now down to seven. The State provides a database for them. She explained the Bridges component (the standards), and the Bridges 2 which is more of a crisis level of services. They do developmental screens from age two months and track how children are doing over time through the Five Year Ages and Stages.

Shirley talked about their merger with Pregnancy Support Connection, and stated they are working on a new name for the merged agency. They will be able to serve more families. There had been a small waiting list in spring, but a new experienced staff is coming a board.

Raquel Mehring reported on supervised visitation for families disrupted by child abuse, divorce, and various reasons children have been removed from a parent. They provide a safe place to visit as well as an education piece. Based on the risk, there are various levels of supervision. Some visits are video taped and they make sure there is appropriate interaction in families. Forty-eight (48) parents have been served the first half of this year, which is more than last year. This depends on what comes through the court system. Sometimes they see families multiple times. Everything is documented and turned over to the court system. Raquel talked about outcomes; of sixty-one children served, twenty-one cases were closed for various reasons. Other programs are incorporated, i.e. Born Learning, Parents Place, Healthy Families, and Children's Service Society. Currently they are in the midst of creating a parents support group. Jesús added that her staff works closely with social workers, sharing information and assessments of visits.

Waukesha County has had contracts with PPAC (Prevention & Protection of Abused Children's - Parents Place) since 1986.

Emma Jacque from LSS Behavioral Health provides adoption disruption services, working with children ages three to eighteen. The goal is for the child to feel safe with the parent(s) and to keep families with adjustment issues together. The focus is on the effects of trauma on children, and building on empathy between child and parent. The children are usually diagnosed the attachment concerns. They provide nurturing skills building for parents. Therapy can involve the entire family, including siblings, and she talked about the importance of trust between child and therapist. Because of the intensity of the therapy provided, they serve a small number of families. Currently there are four active clients. They track a progression of behavior changes over a length of time and usually are able to provide good, impactful results. Significant links are seen between the mental health of parents and children. Referrals are through Waukesha County.

Joe Vitale commented that after forty years in education, having the privilege of working with great teachers, he realizes they sometimes forget some of the issues and concerns that children come to school with. This is all good work by these agencies to get children to school to be able to learn. Pete Slesar related lunch programs meeting nutritional needs to aid in children's learning, and these programs meeting their emotional needs. Barb Holtz said many teachers teach the basics, and are less aware of the home or family issues that may exist for some students, making it difficult for them to learn. She does mandatory reporter training to schools and doesn't believe most teachers fully understand some family issues, and believes there is a need to have more and better training. There was discussion on the need for more focus on family situations. Missy talked about the labeling "special needs" or "that kind of family" that happens at schools. Barb mentioned that the trauma informed care group doesn't, but should have, teachers involved. Pam Groh, a school counselor in the Muskego Norway District responded that such issues have been discussed within their school system. Teacher/student relationships matter most, and they are working on building those strong connections and trusting relationships. The movement is happening in the school she is in, but it is a process and a change of thinking. She agrees there are barriers within the school system; a gap between schools and human services system or agencies that can help families. All agreed they need further discussion on more work between the schools and family agencies.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Diane Ripple reported that the nominating subcommittee has met. She announced the proposed slate of officers for the next two-year term. Missy Kueht-Becker as Chair, Katie Miller as Co-Chair.

Members being removed are Dennis Neuenfeldt, Lad Lake; Meg Kasprowitz, citizen member; Meghan Sprager, La Casa; Heather Rodriguez, Hebron House; John Schiraj, United Way; and Barbara Vaughn Peterson, Healthy Families.

Jeff Pease, Lad Lake, will be available and considered for 2013.

Nominees for 2012 membership are Pamela Groh Rasmussen, representing the Muskego-Norway-School District; Jennifer Horth, ARCh; Shari Campbell, La Casa; Debra Wandsnider, Hebron House; Ashley Frazier, United Way; Shirley Wehmeier, Healthy Families.

Diane had contacted Maura McMahon from the Public Defender Office, Cheri Sylla from CESA, and Carol Rogers from Head Start and they all wish to maintain their membership.

Immediately following this CAFSAC meeting, Joe Vitale will go to the Waukesha Police Department and attempt to contact and invite Police Liaison Officer Servando Benitez for 2012.

Joe Vitale moved to approve the new Chair and Co-Chair, as well as the removal and replacement of members. Don Harris seconded the motions and all present were in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Pearson advised that the Why Can't They Just Stop program is held on Monday nights, open to clients or staff. He will email a flyer. Your Choice, which speaks to high school students, is currently very active. This coming week they have a presentation at Arrowhead High School. Parents and students in recovery at the high school will be presenting. On Wednesday night, the Toolbox program is presenting to parents on how to speak to your teens. He shared a form about a contest with Pepsi, offering a chance to win \$50,000, which has brought awareness to their cause.

Jesús stated that SSAC (Special Services Advisory Committee) is meeting this afternoon and will have a report to CAFSAC next month.

Katie Miller announces that the National Children's Study will have healthy treats to share for all to hand out this Halloween.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on October 20, 2011 in the Board Room of the Human Services Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Joe Vitale motioned to adjourn, seconded by Barb Holtz at 9:54 a.m.

Approved on: 10-20-11
Date